Month	Non-levy sugar quota released (quantity in lakh tonne)	
	2003	2002
August	9.50	9.75
September	10.45	9.75
October	12.65	11.50
November	10.50	10.50
December	10.00	10.00
TOTAL:	53.10	51.50

The prices of sugar were in the range of Rs. 1200—1400 per quintal during the month of November, 2003 as against Rs.1160—1340 per quintal during the corre ponding month of 2002. In addition to the factors mentioned above, monthly quota of non-levy sugar is decided keeping in view its availability to the consumers at a reasonable price.

Availability of rail rakes

984. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's large wheat stocks, which many countries are prepared to buy, have failed to make any large impact on the global trade due to shortage of rail rakes; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take for easy availability of rail rakes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA):(a) and (b) No, Sir. FCI has sold a quantity of 176.81 lakh MT of wheat to the Public Sector Undertakings/Private Exporters as on 31.10.2003 since November, 2000 for export purposes as per the directions of the Government.

The rail rakes for transportation of export foodgrains are provided as per the indents registered, on their turn and priority. Preference is given for the transportation of foodgrains for PDS and other welfare schemes.